

---

## WTO and Agriculture

# What's at Stake for West Virginia?

---

West Virginia produces agricultural and wood products that are exported worldwide. The state's cash receipts from farming reached \$394 million in 1996. Data for 1996 indicate that wood product shipments totaled \$652 million. These industries are important to West Virginia's economy. They create jobs on farms and in mills, and also support jobs in related sectors, such as food processing, transportation, and manufacturing.

West Virginia's agricultural exports were estimated at \$31 million in 1997. The top exports were:

- # poultry and products -- \$25 million
- # tobacco leaf -- \$2 million

World demand for agricultural and wood products is increasing, but so is competition among suppliers. If West Virginia's industries are to compete successfully for export opportunities in the 21st century, they need *fair trade* and *fair access* to growing global markets.

## West Virginia Benefits from Trade Agreements

West Virginia is already benefitting from a number of agricultural trade agreements. While there is still much to be done, examples of new market opportunities for West Virginia include:

- # With more than 40% of its farm receipts coming from poultry, West Virginia should benefit under the Uruguay Round as South Korea grants unlimited access for frozen chicken at a 20% tariff by 2004. Poland opened market access for poultry meat equal to 8.5% of domestic consumption (roughly 30,000 tons in 1996). The Philippines opened a tariff-rate quota for 14,000 tons of chicken, which will reach 23,500 tons by 2004.
- # Under the Uruguay Round, major U.S. trading partners are reducing their tariffs 28% on average for wood products. Under NAFTA, Mexico is eliminating most of its tariffs on logs, softwood lumber, wood moldings, and plywood by 2004.

